

WETHERSFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING

February 9, 2010

The Wethersfield Historic District Commission held a Public Hearing on February 9, 2010 at the Wethersfield Town Hall, Town Manager's Conference Room – First Floor, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, Connecticut.

Members Present: Robert Garrey, Chairperson  
John Maycock, Vice Chairperson  
Lisa Wurzer, Alternate  
Mark Raymond, Alternate

Members Absent: Gary McLeod, Clerk  
Michael Rell  
Susan O'Brien  
Bette Botticello, Alternate

Also Present: Kristin Stearley, Historic District Coordinator  
Linda Messina, Recording Secretary

Commissioner Garrey called the meeting to order at 7:33PM, and read the opening comments. Commissioner Maycock, Clerk, read the Legal Notice as it appeared in the *Hartford Courant* on January 29, 2010.

**APPLICATION NO. 3782-10.** KBuild seeking to construct a handicap access ramp at 44 Old Pewter Lane.

Joe Kuszaj of 32 Livingston Street appeared before the Commission. They would like to build a ramp that comes out forward from the house 17' and 7' 4" in the other direction with a 5' platform at the end. This design meets pitch, railing and material requirements according to the Americans with Disabilities Act. The ramp will be constructed using pressure treated wood, except for the railing supports which have to be stainless steel. The client can't afford to build this ramp as it will cost \$5,000. They would like permission to build a temporary 18' ramp and run it down from the door to the driveway. The Commission does not regulate any temporary structures as long as they are in place for six months or less.

Commissioner Garrey asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

**APPLICATION NO. 3783-10.** Christine Jakymiw seeking to construct a handicap access ramp at 417 Middletown Avenue.

Christine Jakymiw of 417 Middletown Avenue appeared before the Commission. They would like to build a ramp coming off the front of the house heading north and then return toward the south and end at the driveway. The new landing at the front door will be 4' x 5' and everything will be constructed with pressure treated wood. The ramp will probably be made shorter than what is reflected on the drawings which shows 41' on the drawings. There are two different railing designs on the drawings. The owner has no preference on the railing design.

Commissioner Garrey asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

**APPLICATION NO. 3779-10.** Bruce R. Daly seeking to install signage at 281 Main Street. (Tabled from the January 26, 2010 meeting. The last date to act is February 23, 2010.).

Bruce R. Daly of 796 Ridge Road appeared before the Commission. He would like to keep the same signage in the window as existing.

Commissioner Garrey asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

**APPLICATION NO. 3781-10.** Aspen Contracting, Inc. seeking to replace the aluminum siding with vinyl siding at 58 Church Street. (Tabled from the January 26, 2010 meeting. The last date to act is March 9, 2010.)

Jamie Harris of Aspen Contracting, 161 Mill Street, Berlin, appeared before the Commission. A sample of the Majestic Ovation siding in Harbor Gray was provided. It was previously 4" aluminum gold conversion 4" vinyl white trim to match existing. Anything that is currently wood (porch columns from rail cap up and the reveals on the fascia boards) will remain wood. The house currently has 4" aluminum siding in gold and wrapped trim. The cornerboards and trim will be white aluminum. They are replacing the gold siding with gray siding and they are leaving white siding on the porch.

Commissioner Garrey asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

Upon motion by Commissioner Raymond seconded by Commissioner Maycock, and a poll of the commission, it was voted to close the public hearing on all applications and open the public meeting.

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, Raymond, Wurzer

**APPLICATION NO. 3782-10.** KBuild seeking to construct a handicap access ramp at 44 Old Pewter Lane.

Upon motion by Commissioner Maycock, seconded by Commissioner Raymond and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application as submitted.

**Discussion**

Commissioner Raymond stated that, first and foremost, the application has to adhere to the Americans with Disabilities Act. The ramps aren't always beautiful and pretty but they are a necessity in the District.

Commissioner Maycock stated that the ramp isn't bad – it's all wood. He thought the railings were going to be aluminum, but they are made out of cedar which is less intrusive.

Commissioner Garrey stated that the Building Department will make sure it meets all requirements.

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, Raymond, Wurzer

**APPLICATION NO. 3783-10.** Christine Jakymiw seeking to construct a handicap access ramp at 417 Middletown Avenue.

Upon motion by Commissioner Maycock, seconded by Commissioner Raymond and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application with the following stipulation:

1. The railing shall be open.

**Discussion**

Commissioner Maycock stated that we have to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Building Department will put their requirements on it. With such a long stretch, the open railing will be a better design.

Commissioner Garrey stated that because there is such a long run going across the front of the house, it will look better with the open railing. If the homeowner doesn't want to use the open railing, they can come back in front of the Commission and ask for an amendment to the application.

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, Raymond, Wurzer

**APPLICATION NO. 3779-10.** Bruce R. Daly seeking to install signage at 281 Main Street. (Tabled from the January 26, 2010 meeting. The last date to act is February 23, 2010.).

Upon motion by Commissioner Maycock, seconded by Commissioner Raymond and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application as submitted.

**Discussion**

Commissioner Garrey stated that the signage is perfectly acceptable.

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, Raymond, Wurzer

**APPLICATION NO. 3781-10.** Aspen Contracting, Inc. seeking to replace the aluminum siding with vinyl siding at 58 Church Street. (Tabled from the January 26, 2010 meeting. The last date to act is March 9, 2010.)

Upon motion by Commissioner Maycock, seconded by Commissioner Garrey and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application as submitted.

**Discussion**

Commissioner Raymond stated that he would love to see the owner go back to wood siding, but as long as they're keeping it as close to the same or equal to the same, then he approves.

Commissioner Garrey stated that his approval doesn't mean that he likes the change, but it's consistent with other applications that they've seen that were aluminum to vinyl.

Commissioner Maycock stated that his approval doesn't mean that he likes the application either. It brings up the question; can the commission request a better product?

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, Raymond, Wurzer

**MINUTES OF JANUARY 26, 2010**

Upon motion by Commissioner Maycock, seconded by Commissioner Wurzer and a poll of the Commission, the minutes of the January 26, 2010 meeting were approved without objection.

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, Raymond, Wurzer

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Public comments on general matters of the Historic District**

Vince Sidwell of 79 Hartford Avenue appeared before the Commission. He is representing the Wethersfield Cooperative Nursery School which is a tenant at 300 Main Street (Trinity Episcopal Church). There was a state review of the facility and there has been a stipulation in the state regulations that they have to put in a 4' fence around the playground with latching gates. The playground is off the back parking lot of the church. They have a temporary fence up now. There is no tight timeframe for the fence to be installed and it is probably a spring project. The nursery school is a not for profit organization. It doesn't have a lot of capital, so there is some concern about that. The cheapest option for the nursery school is chain link.

Commissioner Garrey stated that there are several appropriate options – aluminum that looks like cast, cast or wood. The Commission will judge it based on the appearance and the massing against that building, taking the architecture into consideration. He suggested that they discuss their application further with Kristin Stearley.

**Report of the Historic District Coordinator**

None.

**Correspondence**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion by Commissioner Maycock, seconded by Commissioner Raymond and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to ADJOURN the meeting at 8:07 PM.

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, Raymond, Wurzer

Respectfully Submitted  
TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Gary McLeod  
Clerk